



# **United States Department of the Interior**

## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)



Date: October 17, 2016

### **Bureau of Land Management California State Office Report to the California State OHV Commission**



**Presentations will be given by:**

**State Office – Jane Arteaga**

**District Office – Beth Ransel**

**Field Office – El Centro Staff**



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### California Desert District Welcomes New Managers

MORENO VALLEY, Calif. - The Bureau of Land Management has announced the selection of Beth Ransel as the new California Desert District (CDD) manager and Douglas Herrema as the new manager for the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office.

Ransel will manage the vast 10.5 million-acre desert district in southern California. She has served as the Field Manager for the Moab Field Office, Utah, since 2013. Last year, Ransel also served as acting Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals in the Colorado State Office. Prior to Moab, she worked in Washington D.C. as a National Program Lead for rights-of-way. She has also worked as Assistant Field Manager in the Las Vegas Field Office and Lander Field Office in Wyoming. She received her Masters of Science degree in Environmental Policy and Management and Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Nevada. Beth will report to the CDD in early October.

"I look forward to working with the public and our partners on the important natural resource challenges facing the California Desert District," Ransel said. "I am committed to ensuring opportunities for robust public engagement and taking a collaborative management approach to caring for our public lands."

Ransel replaces Teri Raml who has taken a position with the Human Capital Management Division, BLM Washington D.C.

Herrema will manage the 1.7 million acres of public land in the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office's resource area, which stretches across five counties from the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River.

"I'm grateful and excited to join the Palm Springs-South Coast team," states Herrema. "I look forward to working with our many stakeholders to benefit the diverse people, lands and resources we serve in southern California."

Herrema comes from the BLM headquarters in Washington, D.C., having served as Program Lead and Senior Specialist for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas since 2011. Herrema joined the BLM in 2006 as a Presidential Management Fellow, and in 2015, completed a year-long Legislative Fellowship in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was born and raised in California, received his Bachelor's degree in government and environmental studies from Georgetown



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University, and his Juris Doctor degree and Law and Public Policy certificate at the Columbus School of Law. Herrema will report to Palm Springs in early October.

Herrema replaces John Kalish who has taken the position of Chief, National Renewable Energy Coordination Office, BLM Washington D.C.



Portrait of Beth Ransel  
California Desert District Manager



Portrait of Douglas Herrema  
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Manager

### Thanks Ed!!!

On September 28th at the OHV leadership meeting, Ed Waldheim was presented a letter and a Certificate of Appreciation from the State Director Jerry Perez thanking Ed for all his hard work and dedication.





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### **Big Thanks to a Hardworking Student Conservation Association Team**

Story by Jeff Starosta, Natural Resource Specialist (Recreation) for the BLM Bishop Field Office

On June 30, 2016, the BLM, Bishop Field Office secured a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Student Conservation Association, Inc. (SCA) for a maximum of



five years. Part of the agreement was to help complete projects associated with a California Department of Parks and Recreation Ground Operations Off-High Vehicle (OHV) Grant. From September 11 through October 1, 2016, the SCA team, which consisted of four members, worked with the BLM Bishop Field Office. They were a fully self-contained crew and camped at the BLM Crowley Lake and Tuttle Creek Campgrounds.

Overall, the SCA team did a stellar job and completed an assortment of on-the-ground projects. Multiple projects were performed in Long Valley, including restoration work on roads and trails near Wild Willy's Hot Springs, habitat restoration for the Long Valley Speckled Dace at Little Alkali Spring, and enhancement of a wildlife guzzler on Doe Ridge. The team eradicated a bike trail that was recently established in the Fish Slough Wilderness Study Area and armored campsites on the Volcanic Tablelands. They performed OHV route maintenance and restoration in the Tungsten Hills, Owens Valley, and in the Alabama Hills. They





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assisted Friends of the Inyo trail crew with building sections of the new Alabama Hills Trail. Lastly, they helped rebuild the Lone Pine Bridge that was lost in July during the Lone Pine Fire. Originally, the bridge was part of the historic livestock driveway that ran from the Mojave Desert to Mono Lake. Presently, the bridge is used by motorcyclist, bicyclists, and foot traffic to connect trails in the Alabama Hills. The bridge was designed to resemble the historic structure.

### Dumont Dunes DAC Sub Committee

The Dumont Dunes Subgroup, under the authority of the California Desert District Desert Advisory Council, continues to provide input to the BLM regarding issues pertinent to the Dumont Dunes OHV Area. The next meeting will be held at Dumont Dunes on Saturday, November 26 at 10:00 a.m. near the visitor center. The subgroup will introduce themselves, give an update, recruit for new subgroup members and allow for public comment.

The subgroup also decided on a safety message for duners arriving and departing the Dumont Dunes OHV Area. Stay Safe, Stay Alive entrance sign was created with photos from the Dumont Dune Rider webmaster, Pete Greep. His photos were also used on this year's season pass that includes the holidays.

The BLM Barstow Field Office is gearing up for the upcoming OHV season. A contract for vault toilet cleaning has been awarded to James "Jimmy" Lynn of Lynn Construction. He is a fellow off-roader and has done some other BLM contract work throughout the California Desert District.







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Season Passes are now available at the Barstow Field Office and through participating vendors. For more information see:  
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/dumont.html>

### Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM)

On February 12, 2016 the President Obama designated the Mojave Trails National Monument comprised of 1.6 million acres of land located primarily in San Bernardino County, the majority of which is managed by the Needles Field Office, but also overlaps into the Barstow Field Office. Additionally there is a small area encompassing Camp Granite Mountain within Riverside County managed by the Palm Springs Field Office. Kyle Sullivan has been selected as the Monument Manager, Kyle is currently the Public Affairs Officer for the Front Range District Office in Colorado. Kyle brings a wealth of BLM experience to the California Desert and the MTNM. In an effort to make the MTNM Manager accessible to the majority of the public and our partner groups, Kyle will be located in our Moreno Valley District Office. While Kyle is already working with us, he will not officially report until mid-November.

The MTNM team is working to develop a “next steps” document that will outline the next steps in the MTNM planning process which will take place over the next six months. The document would then be updated periodically so that we would always be looking six months or better ahead. The document is meant to help guide the MTNM Planning Team.



The Blue Ribbon Coalition is proposing to hold an educational



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OHV event at Park Moabi which is located along the Colorado River and is managed by the Lake Havasu Field Office. To the credit of the BRC, they recognize that if they stage an event there for OHV enthusiasts, there will likely be a “spillover” of OHV use on to lands managed by the Needles Field Office potentially including the MTNM. The BRC prepared an operations plan that outlined the steps 2 they will take to ensure that the use remains casual and does not lead to unacceptable impacts. The NEFO will enter into a Letter of Agreement to confirm the actions outlined in the Operations Plan and their commitment to minimizing any impact.

For more information see: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/nlcs/Mojave\\_Trails.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/nlcs/Mojave_Trails.html)